

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

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R 200950Z FEB 76 ZFF 5 RUHQHQ
FM AMEMBASSY DACCA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9755
INFO AMCONSUL CALCUTTA
AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
USLO PEKING
CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L DACCA 0888

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, IN, BG
SUBJ: BANGLADESH-INDIAN PROBLEMS

REF: NEW DELHI 2410

1. WHEN I ASKED COMMODORE KHAN, DEPUTY MARTIAL LAW ADMINISTRATOR, LAST NIGHT IF HERE SATISFIED WITH RESULTS OF BORDER NEGOTIATIONS WITH INDIA WHICH CONCLUDED HERE LAST FRIDAY, HE SAID HE WAS SATISFIED WITH THE TALKS THEMSELVES WHICH HAD GONE WELL ENOUGH BUT THAT THE IMPORTANT QUESTION WAS WHETHER INDIA WOULD HONOR ITS COMMITMENTS. HE SAID THE SIGNS IN THIS RESPECT WERE NOT GOOD AS THERE HAD BEEN ANOTHER INCIDENT TWO DAYS AGO. IT WAS POSSIBLE, HE ACKNOWLEDGED, THAT THIS WAS SIMPLY A CASE WHERE THE PEOPLE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE INCIDENT "HAD NOT YET GOTTEN THE WORD." COMMODORE KHAN SAID THEY HAD ASKED FOR A "FLAG MEETING" (A MEETING OF THE AUTHORITIES ON THE SCENE) ON THIS INCIDENT.
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2. BUT COMMODORE KHAN DID NOT APPEAR TO BE OVERLY CONCERNED WITH THE BORDER SITUATION AT THE MOMENT AND MOVED QUICKLY TO HIS CURRENT PREOCCUPATION, INDIA'S ALLEGED MISBEHAVIOR IN THE SHARING OF THE GANGA WATER. HE REPEATED

HIS NOW FAMILIAR DIATRIBE AGAINST INDIAN ACTIONS AND SAID IT WAS NOT TRUE THAT THE INDIAN GOVERNMENT HAD PROPOSED TALKS ON THE FARAKKA QUESTION. HE SAID HE ASSUMED THERE WOULD EVENTUALLY BE TALKS BETWEEN THE TWO SIDES BUT HERE AGAIN THE QUESTION WAS WHETHER INDIA WOULD LAY THE RIGHT BASIS FOR THESE TALKS, I.E., BY STOPPING ITS UNILATERAL ACTIONS.

3. IN THIS CONNECTION, THE BANGLADESH MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS HAS AS YET MADE NO PUBLIC COMMENT ON THE FEBRUARY 19 STATEMENT OF THE OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN OF THE INDIAN MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS ON THE FARAKKA BARRAGE REPORTED IN REFTEL. THE ONLY PRESS COMMENT TODAY (FEBRUARY 20) ON THE FARAKKA ISSUE WAS A STORY DATED HONG KONG REPORTING THAT THE PRC HAD CRITICIZED INDIA FOR DIVERTING THE WATERS OF THE GANGA AT FARAKKA BARRAGE. PEOPLE'S DAILY WAS REPORTED TO HAVE SAID THAT INDIA'S "MONOPOLY" OF THE GANGA WATERS, "DISREGARDING" THE LIFE OR DEATH OF THE BANGALEES, WAS "AN ACTION RARELY SEEN IN INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS."
BOSTER

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